

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 118474 TOSEC 010137

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BANGKOK PARIS
UDORN CANBERRA CDR USSAG NKP DIA WASHDC CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
FROM VIENTIANE 21 MAY 75:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3573

CANBERRA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, AEMR, LA

SUBJ: PATHET LAO ACTIONS AGAINST USAID FACILITIES IN VIENTIANE

REF: VIENTIANE 3562

1. ACTIONS AGAINST USAID FACILITIES
ORGANIZED AND INSPIRED BY LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF) CONTINUE,
PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF USAID COMPOUND AT NA HAI DIAO.
MOVEMENT INTO AND OUT OF KM-6 HOUSING COMPLEX IS BEING FORBIDDEN
BY ARMED SOLDIERS FROM THE JOINT MILITARY PROTECTIVE FORCES.
(JMPF). JMPF TROOPS AND SOME STUDENTS ARE INSIDE THE GATES AT
KM-9 WAREHOUSE COMPLEX AND ACCESS IS BEING DENIED TO ALL
WHO MIGHT WISH TO ENTER.

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2. USAID NA HAI DIAO COMPOUND: CROWD OF APPROXIMATELY
300 PERSONS WERE INSIDE COMPOUND BY MID-MORNING. CROWD
INCLUDED SOME USAID EMPLOYEES IN VARIOUS CATEGORIES: A
HANDFUL WHO WERE CLEARLY INVOLVED IN DEMONSTRATION; OTHERS

WHO, WHEN THEY REPORTED FOR WORK AT NORMAL HOUR, EITHER JOINED DEMONSTRATORS VOLUNTARILY OR WERE COERCED INTO DOING SO; AND STILL OTHERS WHO WANTED NO PART IN DEMONSTRATION BUT WERE NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE. AT LAST REPORT THREE AMERICANS MENTIONED REFTEL -- TWO MARINE GUARDS AND FEDERAL ELECTRIC CONTRACT EMPLOYEE -- WERE STILL INSIDE COMPOUND AS WELL. DEMONSTRATORS HAVE MENACED USAID HQ BUILDING BY POUNDING ON DOOR, RINGING BUZZER, ETC., BUT HAVE NOT MANAGED TO ENTER. NO INJURIES HAVE BEEN REPORTED, BUT THERE HAS BEEN AN UNKNOWN AMOUNT OF PROPERTY DAMAGE WITHIN THE COMPOUND.

3. LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF SIGNS HAVE BEEN POSTED IN COMPOUND, MOST CALLING FOR OUSTER OF USAID, CIA AND TAPS. (EMBASSY, USIS AND LAA APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN SPARED.) ONE DEMONSTRATOR TOLD VOA CORRESPONDENT JOHN SCHULZ, "WE DON'T WANT ALL THE AMERICANS TO LEAVE, ONLY THOSE EMPLOYED BY USAID AND CIA." POSTERS ATTACK VARIOUS PEOPLE BY NAME, INCLUDING TAPS CHIEF FRANK SPRAGE WHO IS REFERRED TO AS A "CIA BANDIT." DEMONSTRATORS CAPTURED ONE POST ON EMBASSY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN LATE MORNING AND A SECOND ONE EARLY IN THE AFTERNOON. THEY HAVE FREQUENTLY INTERFERED WITH NORMAL TRANSMISSIONS BY SHOUTING OBSCENITIES IN LAO AND ENGLISH AND BY CALLING REPEATEDLY FOR AMERICANS TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

4. JOINT POLICE PROTECTION AT THE COMPOUND HAS NEVER BEEN ADEQUATE. POLICE OFFICERS HAVE REMAINED OUTSIDE COMPOUND WHILE DEMONSTRATORS HAVE RAMPAGED AROUND INSIDE, LOOTING THE ACA CLUB AND COMMISSARY WAREHOUSE.

5. BY MID-DAY THE COMBINATION OF BEER AND NOONDAY SUN CONTRIBUTED TO A LULL WHICH LASTED UNTIL APPROXIMATELY 1300 HOURS, WHEN SIX PERSONS APPEARED CARRYING SUITCASES AND WEARING SUNGLASSES; THEY APPEARED TO MARINE GUARD TO BE LEADERS OF DEMONSTRATION.

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6. AT APPROXIMATELY 14000 HOURS THE DEMONSTRATORS GASSED UP AT LEAST THREE OF THE SCHOOL BUSES INSIDE THE COMPOUND AND APPROXIMATELY 120 STUDENTS APPEARED TO TRY TO BOARD THE BUSES. AFTER ABOUT AN HOUR ONE BUS DEPARTED THE COMPOUND. CARRYING 40 TO 50 STUDENTS.

7. A USAID LOCAL EMPLOYEE STATES THAT AN ESCAPEE FROM THE COMPOUND REPORTED THAT THERE WAS A STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE DONG KOK STUDENTS WHO WANTED TO LEAVE THE COMPOUND AND THOSE USAID EMPLOYEES AND OTHERS WHO WANTED THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR PARTICIPATION. REPORTEDLY THE DEMONSTRATORS WANTED TO FORCE THEM TO REMAIN AT THE USAID AND THREATENED TO KILL THEM

IF THEY LEFT. SOME OF THE STUDENTS ARE SAID TO HAVE SHOUTED THAT THEY WERE GOING TO DONG DOK "TO DIE." SAME SOURCE ESTIMATED THAT AS OF 1700 THERE WERE 250 PEOPLE INSIDE THE COMPOUND INCLUDING THE USAID LOCALS; HE GUESSED THAT ONLY "A DOZEN" LEGITIMATE USAID EMPLOYEES ARE ACTUALLY INVOLVED IN THE DEMONSTRATION.

9. MARINE GUARD ON DUTY IN USAID BUILDING REPORTS THAT THROUGHOUT THE DAY HE HAS OBSERVED A NUMBER OF PATHET LAO VEHICLES COME TO THE GATES WHERE THEY DROPPED OFF AND ALSO PICKED UP "PAPERS" (POSSIBLY POSTERS). LEADERS CITED IN PARA 4 ABOVE WERE ALSO SEEN MOVING BACK AND FORTH APPARENTLY ORGANIZING DEMONSTRATORS. 9 AT LAST REPORT ARMED PL ENTERED COMPOUND AND WERE SEEN TO BE LEADING TWO HANDCUFFED LAO TOWARDS THE GATE. THEY WERE APPARENTLY HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY DEPARTING THE COMPOUND. SUBSEQUENTLY THREE BUSLOADS OF DEMONSTRATORS WERE SEEN DEPARTING THE COMPOUND FOR AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION; MANY WERE WAVING MACHETES.

10. THE YARD OF AT LEAST ONE USAID HOME IN THE VICINITY OF USAID COMPOUND WAS ENTERED BY DEMONSTRATORS AND FAMILY INSIDE THREATENED WITH PHYSICAL HARM; QUICK ACTION BY TAPS GUARDS PERMITTED FAMILY TO ESCAPE UNHARMED AND STYMIED ENTRY BY DEMONSTRATORS INTO THE HOME. THERE ARE OTHER REPORTS THAT SERVANTS WORKING FOR AMERICANS ARE RECEIVING THREATENING PHONE CALLS AND SOME AMERICAN EMPLOYEES HAVE EVEN CONFIDENTIAL

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RECEIVED DEATH THREATS. (COMMENT: IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER THESE ARE SERIOUS THREATS OR SIMPLY ADDITIONAL FORM OF HARASSMENT)

1. USAID HOUSING AREA AT KM-6: EMBASSY OFFICERS ATTEMPTED TO ENTER KM-6 AT APPROXIMATELY 1300 HOURS BUT WERE TOLD BY THE SOLDIERS (FOUR VIENTIANE SID ARMED WITH M-16S AND 3 PL ARMED WITH AK-47S) OF THE JOINT MILITARY PROTECTIVE FORCES (JMPF) WHO ARE POSITIONED AT FRONT GATE THAT THEY HAVE INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO LET PEOPLE EITHER ENTER OR DEPART KM-6. THE AMERICANS LIVING THERE THUS REMAIN ISOLATED FROM THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY. NO HARM HAS BEEN DONE TO EITHER AMERICAN PERSONNEL OR PROPERTY AT KM-6, BUT MANY PEOPLE INSIDE ARE UNDERSTANDABLY NERVOUS.

12. USAID SUPPLY MANAGEMENT DIVISION WAREHOUSE COMPLEX AT KM-9; EMBOFFS WERE ALSO DENIED ENTRY TO FACILITY AT KM-9 WHERE THEY FOUND 15-20 JMPF MEMBERS INSIDE THE FENCE ALONG WITH SEVERAL SELF-DESCRIBED "PATRIOTS" IN CIVILIAN CLOTHING; SOME OF THE LATTER (WHO APPEARED TO BE STUDENTS) WERE SEEN LOUNGING PEACEFULLY IN THE

SHADE OF ONE OF THE WAREHOUSES. NO DAMAGE WAS NOTED
AT KM-9 AND SITUATION WAS BASICALLY CALM.

13. CHARGE CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER AT 11:30
AND ON FONMIN AT NOON, AND CABINET WENT
INTO SESSION AT 1600 HOURS. AT 1700 HOURS PRIME
MINISTER'S CHEF DE CABINET CALLED CHARGE TO INFORM
HIM THAT THE CHIEFS OF THE
TWO DELEGATIONS TO THE JOINT CENTRAL COMMISSION
TO IMPLEMENT THE ACCORDS (SOUKAN - VIENTIANE SIDE -
AND SOTH - LPF) HAD BEEN DISPATCHED TO SETTLE MATTERS AT
USAID COMPOUND AND KM-6. IN ADDITION, A TORRENTIAL RAIN BEGAN
ABOUT 1700 HOURS; IT MAY HELP TO DISSIPATE
SOME OF THE DEMONSTRATORS' ARDOR. CHAPMAN UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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